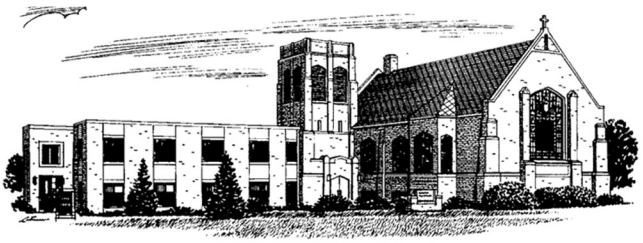
SARON MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085



Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Phone: 269-983-1273
Facebook:www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor
Home: 269-983-2475
Email: oleson@saronlutheran.org

Marcus Roll, Music Director
Email: roll1mc@gmail.com

Irma Gorman, Organist

Amanda Bradley, Admin Assistant
Cell: 419-306-5780
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
bradley717@gmail.com

Megan Savage, Bookkeeper
Email: financial@saronlutheran.org

Sara Porter, Childcare Specialist
Email: portersara20@gmail.com

Typical Sunday at Saron:
Summer of 2023 (ends Sept 3):
10am Worship
On-Location and via Zoom
Nursery Available
No Learning Hour

Fall, Winter and Spring **(begins Sept 10)**:
8:30am Worship On-Location
9:40am Learning Hour for Ages 3-Adult
11am Worship with Zoom Option
Nursery Available

We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the
North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Episcopal Diocese of Western MI

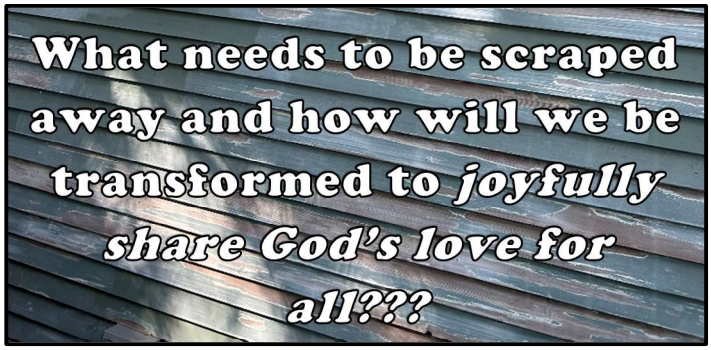
Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia
Saron's Mission: *Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!*

PASTOR JOAN'S ARTICLE FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

We are currently having our house painted. For any of you who have done similarly, you know the routine – selection of color/s, securing a capable painter (and team) for the work – the scraping, the application of primer, then topcoat – and all affected by the delays caused by weather. Yes, there is much to be done. Simultaneously, work is being done here in the sanctuary and there has been the planning, the coordination of workers, the opening and closing of the building, the tearing out and now the building back up. New life.

While the analogies can break down quickly, and they do, I have been giving thought to how they relate to the life of faith – the new, transformative, life we are given in Christ (we call it forgiveness; we receive it through the gifts of baptism, Holy Communion, and the community of faith), and the scraping, tearing away of what is old (we call it confession) so that we may more gratefully receive the new. We not only receive it, but we are called to live it, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

As we celebrate the newly baptized, the reception of new members, and the start of a new program year, I ponder how we will live out the new life we are given each and every day, in Jesus – through his life, death, and resurrection.



- Pastor Joan

General Information

OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Joan
Monday-Thursday Mornings
Amanda Bradley (Admin Assistant):
Mondays & Thursdays 9am-noon
Helping Hands Office Volunteers:
Wednesdays 9:00am-11am (approx)
Megan Savage (Bookkeeper):
Tuesdays & Thursdays 5:30pm

When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (269/983-1273) or contacting the council president.

Note: Emails for Pastor should be addressed to oleson@saronlutheran.org to ensure privacy. Emails to Amanda and the church office should be sent to info@saronlutheran.org.

Caring and Sharing

IN OUR PRAYERS

Kathleen & Phillip Preston are at Caretel in St. Joseph;
Tom Taylor is at Caretel in St. Joseph;
John Olson is at the Willows in St. Joseph.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members!

9/1	Ramona Wallace
9/3	Chelsea Knauf
9/4	Nicole Coar
9/10	Julie Kimmerly
9/10	David Siewert
9/12	Charles Fortenbacher
9/12	Beth Gray-Roll
9/13	Sally Schmuhl
9/13	Makaio Talbert
9/15	Deanna Deaton
9/15	Dan Fortenbacher
9/16	William Oleson
9/17	Hannah Karl
9/17	John Olson
9/17	Hayes Hooper
9/18	Brandon Burrow
9/18	Troy Burrow
9/18	Grant Gacek
9/18	Wendy Hoffman
9/19	Rian Huff
9/20	Todd Gorman
9/23	Kathy Cowall
9/24	Marybeth Culverhouse
9/24	Sue Fortenbacher
9/25	Colleen Lundgren
9/25	Kirsten Talbert
9/27	Jack Houser

Happy Anniversary Wishes to Saron's Members!

9/3	Kate & Scott Kohs
9/7	Karen & Peter Johnson
9/10	Pam & John Olson
9/11	Ken & Suzy Kohs
9/12	Shawn & Heidi de la Foret

"God's Blessings for a very happy day and year round!"

If there are any omissions from the birthday or anniversary list, or if a date is incorrect, please let us know so we can get it correct in the future!

CONGRATULATIONS!

We welcomed **Brighton Alexander** and **Hayes Anderson**, sons of Ryan & Kate Hooper, into God's family through the act of Holy Baptism on August 27, 2023. Sponsors for Brighton and Hayes are Mickey Hooper and Peggy Casterline.

Also on August 27, we joyously welcomed **Ryan & Kate Hooper**, **Laurie Caple**, **Sheila Hartlerode**, and **Ester Kuyat** as new members of Saron. What a blessed day for our church family!

FORTIFY & fly

It's happening! The work in the chancel area started on Monday, August 23, consisting of new hard flooring and a new ramp with railing. The goal in this area is better acoustics and accessibility. There are lots more upgrades coming soon, including new carpet for the remaining sanctuary flooring and electrical work that will get our new technology up and running (camera and microphone). No more table with a computer up front! Updates are always exciting, but visual ones like this are especially fun and will be noticeably impactful to our worship experience.

As always, thank you for being with us on this journey and know that we will keep you informed until all projects are complete and all the money has been responsibly spent.

Worship

SENSORY BAGS

As part of extending an unconditional welcome to all, we now have Sensory Bags available for use during worship or at other times when helpful. These bags contain a variety of fidgets that can help someone feel more able to sit quietly and/or focus. We also have noise canceling headphones for those who are sound sensitive. These brightly colored bags can be found in the narthex.

PRAYER GROUP

You are invited to offer your prayer petitions (concerns or thanksgivings) via our attendance cards each Sunday. Requests can also be made confidentially online via a link in our Thursday mailings. You may include as much detail as you wish. Requests are then given to the Monday prayer group. **You are also invited to be part of the Monday group at 11am.** We follow a simple format of morning prayer and insert the petitions and prayers for Saron's ministry and the world. You don't even have to pray aloud, if you would prefer to pray quietly. Most weeks we are done in 30 minutes. If you want to know more about this ministry, please contact Pastor Joan.

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR

We will continue the Wednesday Zoom Coffee Hour at 11am as long as there is interest. All are welcome!

ALTAR FLOWERS

Sponsor a week by using the link in the weekly email or by contacting the church office. Please note any occasion/thanksgiving to be recognized in the bulletin. Flowers are $35 per vase. Checks are payable to Saron with "Flowers" as the memo. Take them home to enjoy then **simply return the vase to Saron.**

FACEBOOK

We often share pictures of Saron's ministry on our Facebook page. We do not put names with the pictures. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Pastor.

Nursery service is available during worship. In order to utilize the space most effectively, this option is primarily directed towards our youngest members and guests. For preschoolers that need more physical and/or emotional space, activities are available in the narthex, including clipboards with coloring pages and children's bulletins. **It's vital to embrace family units in all stages and as such, we gladly welcome wiggles and giggles in worship!**

The goal of the nursery is to provide a safe environment to facilitate a meaningful worship experience for families. We recognize that may not look the same for all and encourage sharing concerns and suggestions.

We are always looking for new volunteers to help share the load, especially heading into our program year schedule with two services. Contact Marilyn Lucy (269/759-3464) with any questions or interest.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

September 3: 14th Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 15:15-21
Psalm 26:1-8
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

September 10: 15th Sunday after Pentecost
Ezekiel 33:7-11
Psalm 119:33-40
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

September 17: 16th Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 50:15-21
Psalm 103:1-13
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

September 24: 17th Sunday after Pentecost
Jonah 3:10-4:11
Psalm 145:1-8
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

CHOIR

Hi Saron! I would like to invite you to consider being a part of one or both of our musical ensembles. We rehearse on Thursday evenings, with a handful of exceptions throughout the year.

Bell choir rehearses from 6-7pm and plays in worship about once a month, including both services on Easter morning. Ringers DO NOT need to know how to read music. I have a system to help inexperienced musicians learn to play and can start new ringers on a position with less notes with growth from there.

Senior choir rehearses from 7-8pm and sings in every 11am worship service except during Summer and a handful of other times throughout the year. We learn fast but many of our anthems are familiar tunes or songs we have done before. I try to only introduce 1-2 new pieces of music a season so we can spend time learning them. Again, like with bell choir, no experience is necessary.

Rehearsals are very relaxed and we have so much fun in both ensembles. Stop by on a Thursday evening and have some fun with us!

If you have any questions, please let me know.
Marcus Roll: 269/930-6315 or roll1mc@gmail.com

Our youth group (middle school and high school kids) typically meets once per month after the service for food, fun and fellowship. Watch your email for more information on the next gathering. Friends are always welcome!

Contact Claudia at Staude.claudia@gmail.com with any questions or to be added to the email list.

Learning

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

We have many educational options to fit your needs and schedule. Always feel welcome to join us, at any time and for as many sessions as works for you.

SUNDAY LEARNING HOUR

Our program year will begin again on September 10. We have opportunities for many ages and stages!

The Sunday Learning Hour (9:40am-10:30am) offers the following options:

- Preschool - Grade 5: Sunday School
- Grades 6-8: Confirmation Classes
- High School - Adult: Adult Forum

TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Starting on **September 5**, the Tuesday evening Bible study group will tackle the Old Testament book of Job. Our resource book, “Job – Trusting God in Suffering," by John MacArthur, is available in paperback or Kindle version from Amazon. During this study, we will explore what it was like for Job to unknowingly be caught in a battle between God and Satan, and perhaps along the way we will discover how to deal with seemingly unfair adversities in our own lives. Hope you can join us!

We meet **Tuesday evenings at 6pm** in the upstairs lounge for one hour then adjourn to a local restaurant for food and fellowship. **All are welcome!**

If you have any questions, feel free to call, text, or email:
Bob Kynast (269-921-2786, bobkynast@gmail.com)
Don Hafer (269-985-3637, hafer.don@gmail.com)

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Join us for rich discussions as we join on September 7 and 14 for a look at crosses, their various shapes and meanings. On **September 21**, we begin a six-week study on the Gospel of Mark by scholar Amy-Jill Levine. We will walk through the Bible’s earliest source for the life of Jesus as Levine examines John the Baptizer, the Little Apocalypse, the Transfiguration, and several of Jesus' most notable stories and parables. The Good News of the gospel message comes alive in this book as readers see Jesus as divine and human, powerful and weak, approachable yet mysterious. All are welcome to this study which meets **Thursdays from 9:30-11am in the upstairs lounge**. Cost of the book is $15. Questions? Want to order a book? Contact Pastor Joan.

FORUM & fellowship

Forum & Fellowship is back for a second season! Our goal is to build community as we learn about and discuss topics of interest. While not a traditional Bible study, we do look at issues through our faith-based lens. Our sessions are a combination of instruction, videos, pairing and sharing, group sharing, general discussion, and speakers. If you have not yet tried us out, please consider attending. If you attended last year, we are looking forward to your participation once again.

We typically meet at 7pm in the church lounge the first and third Wednesdays of each month with time off for Advent, Lent, and the summer months. A rough schedule of dates and topics follows. Join us for all of them or just the ones that pique your interest. Forum & Fellowship is open to all; adults, teens, married, single, members, families, guests. All are welcome. Some upper elementary and middle schoolers might even find some of the topics interesting. **Contact Ed Staude at 636/288-1016 with any questions.**

September 6, 20, October 4:
Enhancing Social Justice In Communities Through Participation In 3rd Places
(guests from service clubs and community groups)

October 18:
Understanding the Foster Care System
(speaker)

November 1, 15:
This I Believe Project (NPR)
(video, writing and sharing)

January 2, 17, February 7:
The Future of the Church???
(area pastors panel discussion)

April 3, 17:
Dealing With the Politics of Outrage
(video, potential speaker)

May 1, 15:
Recharging Your Batteries; Michigan, Your Backyard
(videos, sharing, speaker)

BOOK CLUB

September 10 (second Sunday), we will meet in the lounge to discuss "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus. The Washington post says, "A gifted research chemist, absurdly self-assured and immune to social conventions in 1960's California, becomes the unlikely star of a beloved TV cooking show." Stephen King calls it the "Catch 22 of early feminism". Don't miss this one.

Looking ahead to October 1st, join us again. We're reading "Last Bus to Wisdom" by Ivan Doig. This is one of a four book series Doig wrote about his beloved Montana. Each book stands alone. This introduces Donal who's sent to his Aunt in Wisconsin but ends up on a misadventure with his uncle back to Montana. Charming and laugh-out-loud funny.

Please join us for these discussions and feel free to come to any or all of the up-coming gatherings. You will be very welcome. The more opinions, the better discussion we have. Zoom will be available. A reminder email with details will be sent out prior to each meeting. **To be included in the mailings, contact Kathy Cowall (269)428-0354 or kcowall@hotmail.com.**

A good book makes you want to live in the story. A great book gives you no choice. -Life is better with books

Women of the ELCA

DEBORAH CIRCLE

We will meet on **Wednesday, September 13 at 7pm** in the church lounge. Denise will provide Zoom with a link emailed closer to the date. The Bible study lesson will be from the May/June 2023 of Gather magazine, entitled *Salvation now: Promised salvation now: Jesus brings wellness*, p. 32-37, session one. Sally Schmuhl will lead the study.

If you have any questions about this group, contact Melanie at 269/449-8399.

Hospitality

SUNDAY SNACKS

Who doesn't love a snack during a time of fellowship in the narthex? If you would like to be a Sunday snack host, sign up via the link in our weekly email or call/email the office so Amanda can sign you up. Please plan for 30 to partake. Thank you!

Outreach

Lutheran World Relief

Saron Church Women will, again, be collecting items for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). Donation opportunities will include Personal Care Kits, Fabric Kits and monetary donations towards shipping costs. LWR distributes items all over the world, wherever they are needed.

We will distribute plastic resealable kit bags beginning Sunday, September 17. Filled kits are due on Sunday, October 8. You may bring them back anytime during that timeframe and deposit them in labeled boxes in the narthex. Please do not add other items or omit any of the items listed. All items should be new and in good condition.

Personal Care Kit: one light-weight bath towel (dark color recommended), two bath-size bars of soap, one adult-size toothbrush, one sturdy comb (but no picks or fine toothed), and one metal nail clipper.

Fabric Kit: 2-4 yards of cloth and matching thread.

Shipping Donations: cash or a check made payable to Saron Church Women with "LWR shipping costs" as the memo. These donations may be given to Colleen Lundgren, Denise Cook, or Melanie McCammon.

Thank you very much in advance for your generosity in supporting this ministry!

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

There is still some time left to be a blessing to students and teachers at Lybrook Elementary in Eau Claire! Suggested donated items include crayons, colored pencils, markers, folders, notebooks, white board markers, Sharpies, tissues, disinfecting wipes and gifts cards to Meijer or Walmart.

The deadline is *God's Work. Our Hands.* Sunday (September 10).

BENTON HARBOR SOUP KITCHEN

Simple food, honestly sourced and lovingly made, creates connections, gives fuel to the fight, and starves ignorance and apathy. -Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen

On July 27, Jim Manore, Dave Bradley, Kathie Bradley, Ken Kohs and Mary Zylema were busy at the Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen preparing and serving 102 lunches. Guests enjoyed a ham dinner, including potato salad, coleslaw, fruit, pickles, bread & homemade cookies. The cookie bakers this month were Mary Zylema, Steve Bell & Vicki Drake.

If you are able to help with the preparation and serving, or by providing cookies, please use the link in the weekly email or contact Kathie Bradley at 269-921-4665.

Thank you to all who continue to support this ministry with your time, contributions, and prayers.
Joyfully sharing God's love for all!

NOISY OFFERING

ELCA WORLD HUNGER

We receive a noisy offering (or those not-so-noisy bills) on the first Sunday of each month. These gifts are sent to ELCA World Hunger.

Thank you for your continued support!

Special Note: We received a letter from the World Hunger Team, thanking us for our "faithful, generous support of ELCA World Hunger." It also stated that we were "one of the top 10 giving congregations to ELCA World Hunger in our Synod." Wow! That is really something to be incredibly proud of, Saron!

INCLUSIVITY TASK FORCE

The Inclusivity Task Force is committed to extending a welcome to all. Our congregation adopted the following welcome statement and is a **Reconciling in Christ** church.

As a community of faith who *joyfully shares God's love for all*, we believe our lives and faith are strengthened by diversity. We strive to be a community who welcomes people of every ability, age, citizenship status, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, language, marital status, political perspective, race, and sexual orientation. We are committed to the work of racial equity. Whatever life's circumstance, we openly welcome and value you. We celebrate God's unconditional love and respond joyfully to your presence here. All are welcome. You are welcome.

If you ever have any questions or need clarification on our inclusivity journey, please feel free to call any one of the task force members:

Connor Ashley: cashley1837@outlook.com
Laurel Gacek: 269/470-6062 or mlmg2445@sbcglobal.net
Laura Hicks: 517/930-0579 or lhicks42@gmail.com
Darlene Kiessel: 269/313-4062 or kiessel@me.com
Pr Joan Oleson: 269/983-1273 or oleson@saronlutheran.org

Interfaith Action

Interfaith Action (swmichiganinterfaith.org) is a coalition of over 40 faith communities in Allegan, Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, and Van Buren Counties. Some members of Saron attend meetings and work with various task force groups. One of the goals of Interfaith Action is to promote understanding and respect for diversity.

The first step in getting involved, is getting informed. Register to receive their communications at https://swmichinterfaith.org/contact1

Looking ahead: A Celebration of the Harvest and Harvesters is on the calendar for October 1 at 3pm at Tabor Hill Vineyards. Watch for more details.

Support

The Support Committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 8pm via Zoom. Contact Don Hafer with any questions at 269/985-3637.

STOCK DONATIONS

Saron partners with TD Ameritrade, a brokerage firm, to accept stock donations. If you would like to donate stock, email Joe Ulrey at josephulrey@yahoo.com to receive more information. Thanks!

Facilities

HELPING HANDS (Previously Golden Hammers)

We do all sorts of things from building maintenance to preps for worship in the sanctuary to assembling bulletins and newsletters and so much more. We meet on Wednesdays around 9am and know you are invited – whatever your age, gender, or ability. There is a job for you to use your helping hands.

Other Bits of News

BURIAL PLOTS AVAILABLE

Are you, or someone you love, in need of a burial plot? Saron has been gifted with two adult plots, which can be divided, at **North Shore Memory Garden in Coloma**, as well as a niche for two end-to-end caskets in the Mausoleum. We are offering these at a reduced current value with proceeds going to the Endowment Fund. If interested, or you have questions, contact **Liz Kunkel (269/429-1132) or Pastor.**

UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

YOU ARE WITNESSES OF THESE THINGS
SHARING THE STORY OF JESUS
CRAIG ALAN SATTERLEE
CHELSEY SATTERLEE
You Are Witnesses of These Things Retreat
September 17-18, 2023
St. Francis Retreat Center
Dewitt, MI

Register now!

Centered on the book *You Are Witnesses of These Things*, this retreat is an opportunity to experience the joy and fun in sharing the story of Jesus for no reason other than Jesus is such life-giving good news. The retreat's primary audience is the baptized, people of God, or lay people but pastors and deacons are heartily welcome.

Visit https://craigasatterlee.com/retreat/you-are-witnesses-of-these-things-retreat for more information and to register. The cost is $85, covering food and lodging.

Training for Worship Volunteers!

Have you ever thought about signing-up for ushering, greeting, reading or any of the other worship volunteer positions but wondered what *exactly* is entailed? You are NOT alone. Thank you to those that attended the August training. A repeat session will be held in October, along with a separate session for those interested in altar care. Questions in the meantime? Contact Erik Bergh (906/290-3347) or Krin Jurgensen (269/369-4493).

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB UNITY DAY

A group of 8 from Saron were honored to volunteer at the annual Boys & Girls Club Unity Day. This event brought together hundreds of kids from the county to play games, sing songs, and enjoy the beautiful (HOT) summer day. Thanks to John Taylor, Kathie Bradley, Amanda Bradley, Mia Bradley, Alaina Bradley, Pastor Joan, Sally Schmuhl and Jim Manore for helping to make this huge undertaking a success!

HAPPY 80th BIRTHDAY, IRMA GORMAN!

Irma's family hosted a time of yummy treats and fellowship after church to celebrate this lovely lady!

Thanks Marcus and Dennis! And especially to Connie Slater for organizing the whole series.

More special musical offerings from our summer invitatory series. While we are eager to welcome back our choir on September 10, this summer has been nothing short of spectacular.

Picnic & worship at Lions Park Beach on August 23.

IN SYMPATHY

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of

Bill Teal

upon his death on August 21, 2023.
Bill was a former member of Saron that moved to North Carolina.

Bill's obituary may be viewed at https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/statesville-nc/billy-teal-11415728

God is our refuge and strength.
- Psalm 46:1a

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We had so much fun with 24 kids at our Under the Sea VBS. It was a massive effort that required many hands, from planning and decorating to activity facilitators, bakers and extra hands. We could not have pulled it off without Fran, Amanda, Kristen, Pastor Joan, Mary K, Jennifer, Laura, Clem, Mary Alice, JoAnn, Mary Z, Marilyn, Sally, Jim M, Hunter, Keith, Dave, Mia, Lindsay, Matt, Jim O, Scott, Alaina, Elijah, Marcus, Merrily, Beth, and Kathie.

Stewardship is what we do after we say we believe.

During last year's Stewardship Season, we highlighted the need for each of us to strengthen our connection with God, with the goal of helping us become better stewards of all that God has given us. From the "Music Fest" kickoff to the "Charcuterie Feast" on Celebration Sunday, last year's focus on stewardship felt special to us, and based on your feedback it felt special and meaningful to many of you as well. So special in fact, that for this year's focus we are again using the theme *"Connecting with God."* The good news is: **God is always there for us!**

While all aspects of stewardship – *"It's all about gratitude; It's all about giving back; It's all about God"* – are equally important, this season we will emphasize "gratitude." We do have so much to be thankful for.

Over the next few weeks, you will have opportunities to strengthen your personal connection with God through worship and reflection and to learn more about what it means to be a good steward. Key happenings include:

Weekly email devotions [starting Thursday, Sept 21]

Connecting with God through Worship and Music [Sunday, Sept 24]

Connecting with God through Prayer & Meditation [Sunday, Oct 1]

Prayer Labyrinth [personal meditation experience, Oct 1-16]

Connecting with God through Care of God's Creation [Sunday, Oct 8]

Connecting with God through Service & Learning [Sunday, Oct 15]

Connecting with God through Church Life at Saron [Sunday, Oct 22]

Connecting with God through Commitment [Celebration Sunday, which includes offering of commitments, a dramatic portrayal relevant to Reformation Sunday, and an Oktoberfest (!!!) celebration after each service; Sunday, Oct 29]

We hope you enjoy and embrace this Stewardship Season! Look for more details in the weekly emails and bulletins, monthly newsletters, and the U.S. mail.

I will praise your name, O God, in song; I will proclaim your greatness with thanksgiving.

Psalm 69:30

Call for Devotions

Last year, the weekly written devotions provided by you all were instrumental in Saron's Stewardship Season, so the Stewardship Committee is again asking for volunteers to pen inspirational messages that can be shared with the Saron community. Specifically, we are looking for individuals to write short devotionals similar to those found in the Augsburg Press "The Word In Season." Or alternatively, one can submit a photograph or drawing (or both a devotion and a picture) that reflects on a selected Bible passage of the week (to be provided) and the overall *"Connecting with God"* theme.

If you are interested in writing devotions or submitting pictures, please contact Carol Hafer (269-470-2255) or Kathy Bergh (906-290-3346) as soon as possible. Devotions should be submitted to Kathy by email (kathy.bergh960@gmail.com) no later than September 15, 2023. Thanks for your participation!

SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email:info@saronlutheran.org

A Congregation of:
The North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Join us for
"God's work. Our hands."
A dedicated day of
service in our community.
ELCA
Sunday
September 10
You don't want to miss this opportunity to give back to our community! This year, we'll be splitting our volunteer power between projects at the Boys & Girls Club (painting picnic tables) and the Readiness Center in Benton Harbor (paper project prep). Lunch will be served after the 11am worship service (around noon), before we head out into the community (plan to arrive at locations around 1pm). Please sign up with your interest so we can plan, especially for the food. There is a link in the Saron Weekly Update and a sign-up sheet in the narthex.
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
READINESS CENTER

SEPTEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 10am Worship with Zoom Option NO Learning Hour	4 11am Prayer Group	5 6pm Bible Study	6 9am Helping Hands 11am Zoom Coffee	7 9:30am Bible Study 6pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	8	9
10 8:30am Worship 9:40am Learning Hour 11am Worship with Choir & Zoom Option ***GODS WORK. OUR HANDS.***	11 11am Prayer Group	12 6pm Bible Study 8pm Support Meeting	13 9am Helping Hands 11am Zoom Coffee	14 9:30am Bible Study 6pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	15	16
17 8:30am Worship 9:40am Learning Hour 11am Worship with Choir & Zoom Option	18 11am Prayer Group 7pm Church Council **NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE**	19 6pm Bible Study	20 9am Helping Hands 11am Zoom Coffee	21 9:30am Bible Study 6pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	22	23
24 8:30am Worship 9:40am Learning Hour 11am Worship with Choir & Zoom Option	25 11am Prayer Group	26 6pm Bible Study	27 9am Helping Hands 11am Zoom Coffee	28 9:30am Bible Study 6pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal **Soup Kitchen Day**	29	30